

**Claims**

1. A bag dispenser having a sling for supporting a roll of pre-formed bags.
2. The dispenser according to claim 1 wherein the sling is retained at a first end by a first retention member and at a second end by a second retention member at a second end, the first and second retention members being in fixed relation.
3. The dispenser according to claim 2 wherein the dispenser further comprises a base portion which carries first and second support arms, the first and second retention members being fixed at respective first and second ends of the support arms.
4. The dispenser according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the second retention member is arranged such that in use it is vertically above and horizontally displaced from the first retention member.
5. The dispenser according to claim 2, 3 or 4 wherein the sling has a length of between 175% and 225% of the distance between the first retention member and the second retention member.
6. The dispenser according to any preceding claim wherein the dispenser includes a separator which in use facilitates the separation of a bag from the roll of pre-formed bags.

7. The dispenser according to claim 6 when dependent upon any one of claims 2 to 5 wherein the separator has a tip arranged in proximity to and substantially in the same horizontal plane as the first retention member.
8. The dispenser according to claim 6 or 7 wherein the separator is arranged in line with a midpoint of the first retention member.
9. The dispenser according to claim 7 or 8 wherein the first member is arranged between the separator and the second retention member.
10. The dispenser according to any preceding claim in which the sling is formed from a mesh material, preferably a plastic-coated fibreglass mesh material.
11. The dispenser according to any one of claims 6 to 10 in which the tip is coated in a high friction material, preferably a plastic-coated fibreglass mesh material.
12. The dispenser according to any of claims 2 to 11 wherein the sling is supported by a support member.
13. The dispenser according to claim 12 wherein the support member is movable with respect to the first and second retention members.
14. The dispenser according to claim 12 or 13 wherein the support member is arranged between the first and second retention members.

15. The dispenser according to any one of claims 12 to 14 wherein the support member is slidable between a position proximate the second retention member and a position proximate the first retention member.

16. The dispenser according to claim 15 above the support member is slidable along a substantially linear path.

17. The dispenser according to claim 15 wherein the support member is slidable along a curved path.

18. The dispenser according to claim 17 wherein the curved path tends towards the vertical proximate the second retention member and towards the horizontal proximate the first retention member.

19. The dispenser according to any one of claims 15 to 18 when dependent on claim 3, wherein each of the first and second support arms defines a slot for slidably receiving respective first and second ends of the support member.

20. The dispenser according to claim 19 wherein the first and second ends of the support member include a low friction bush slidable within the slots.

21. The dispenser of claims 19 or 20 wherein at least one slot has a notch proximate the second retention member in which the support member can be releasably held in a load position to ease loading of a roll of preformed bags into the sling.

22. The dispenser according to any of claims 11 to 21 wherein the support member has a weight of at least 0.25kg.

23. The dispenser according to any of claims 11 to 22 wherein the support member is of circular cross-section having a diameter of at least 10mm.

24. The dispenser according to any of claims 11 to 23 wherein the support member includes handles at each end thereof to facilitate movement of the member by a user.

25. A roll of pre-formed bags, the roll being formed from a flat-folded tube, each pre-formed bag having a longitudinally arranged central portion and two longitudinally arranged exterior portions on either side of the central portion, the central portion being of a two-ply cross-section and each of the exterior portions being of an at least eight-ply cross-section.

26. The roll of pre-formed bags as defined in claim 25 wherein the flat-folded tube is gusseted.

27. A roll of pre-formed bags, the roll being formed from a tube sealed transversely at intervals along its length to form individual bags, each bag having a base end, a mouth end

and non-gusseted sides, each bag having a longitudinally arranged, two-ply, central portion and two longitudinally arranged, four-ply exterior portions, one on either side of the central portion, the four-ply exterior portions each being formed by folding the respective side edge of the bag inwardly of the bag after sealing the base end.

28. The roll of pre-formed bags as defined in claim 27 wherein the four-ply exterior portions are folded twice to form an 8-ply cross-section.

29. The roll of pre-formed bags as defined in any one of claims 25 to 28 wherein the central portion defines a transversely arranged central slit, each of the exterior portions defining a transversely arranged perforation which is substantially in line with the central slit.

30. The roll of pre-formed bags as defined in any one of claims 25 to 29 wherein the pre-formed bag has a base seal arranged in close proximity with the central slit.

31. The roll of pre-formed bags as defined in claim 30 wherein the base seal runs substantially parallel to the central slit and transverse perforations.

32. The roll of pre-formed bags as defined in any one of claims 25 to 31 wherein the roll of pre-formed bags includes a cylindrical core of substantially the same width as the pre-formed bag.

33. A method of making a roll of bags including the steps of  
forming a continuous tube from a plastics material,  
folding the tube so as to form two longitudinally arranged gusset portions,

folding each gusset portion so as to form a longitudinally arranged central portion and two longitudinally arranged exterior portions, one arranged on either side of the central portion, the central portion being of two ply cross-section and each of the exterior portions being of an at least 8 ply cross-section,

further including the steps of transversely sealing the continuous tube at a predetermined interval so as to form a base seal,

transversely perforating the exterior portions in close proximity to the base seal,

forming a slit in the central portion which is substantially in line with the perforations

rolling the continuous tube into a roll of bags.

34. A method of making a roll of bags including the steps of

forming a continuous tube from a plastics material, the tube having a central portion and two longitudinally arranged exterior portions, one arranged on either side of the central portion,

transversely sealing the continuous tube at a predetermined interval so as to form a base seal,

transversely perforating the exterior portions in close proximity to the base seal,

forming a slit in the central portion which is substantially in line with the perforations,

folding the tube so that the central portion is of two ply cross-section and each of the exterior portions are of at least 4 ply cross-section,

further including the step of rolling the continuous tube into a roll of bags.

35. The method of claim 34 in which the step of folding the tube comprises folding the tube so that the exterior portions are of 4-ply cross-section then refolding the exterior portions again so as to form an 8-ply cross-section.

36. A method of separating a bag from the roll of bags of any one of claims 25 to 32 where the roll of bags is held within the dispenser of claim 6, or any one of claims 7 to 24 when dependent on 6, the method including the steps of:

pulling the bag over the separator so as to inhibit movement of the lower ply of the central portion relative to the upper ply, thereby opening the mouth of the bag.

37. The method of claim 36 further including the step of pulling the bag further over the separator so that the friction generated between the separator and the bag allows continued pulling to cause the bag to separate from the roll of bags.

38. The method of claim 36 further including the step of pulling the bag further over the separator so that the separator penetrates the central slit, allowing continued pulling of the bag to separate the bag from the roll of bags.